### David R. Lawrence MD and Jeannie Lemelin LPN

30 Flagg Hill Rd Colebrook Winsted, CT 06098

January 10, 2011

Connecticut Siting Council Attn: David Caruso, Chair 10 Franklin Square New Britain, CT 06051



CONNECTION TO SITING COUNCIL

Re:

Petition No. 983, BNE Energy, Wind Project, Flagg Hill Road, Colebrook Petition No. 984, BNE Energy, Wind Project, Winsted-Norfolk Road,

Colebrook

Dear Mr. Caruso:

This is a petition for party status in the Petition of BNE Energy Inc. for a Declaratory Ruling for the Location, Construction and Operation of a 4.8 MW Wind Renewable Generating Project on Flagg Hill Road in Colebrook, Connecticut ("Wind Colebrook South") dated December 6, 2010 and the Petition of BNE Energy Inc. for a Declaratory Ruling for the Location, Construction and Operation of a 4.8 MW Wind Renewable Generating Project on Winsted-Norfolk Road in Colebrook, Connecticut ("Wind Colebrook North") dated December 13, 2010.

#### Contact information for proposed party

Proposed party:

David R. Lawrence, MD

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# I. Manner in which proposed party claims to be substantially and specifically affected

We are residents of Colebrook, CT. We are abutting property owners to the proposed Wind Colebrook South facility. Our property is located to the east of the proposed facility, and is identified in the Perimeter Survey at page 5 of Exhibit F to Petition Number 983 Abutters Map. The proposed facility will negatively impact both our enjoyment of our property and the value of our property. The proposed facility also poses a threat to the health and safety of our family.

#### II. Contention of the petitioners

As abutters to the proposed Wind Colebrook South project we are concerned about the negative health impacts including but not exclusively noise and annoyance, infrasonic disturbance, the effects of flicker, and possible ice shedding that could harm our children en route to their bus stop. As medical professionals, we feel that there are credible concerns about the negative impact of wind turbines as chronicled by Dr. Nina Pierpont, described as "Wind Turbine Syndrome", and as chronicled by European health professionals, described as "Vibro Acoustic Disorder." While acknowledging that the science of disturbance from wind turbines is in its infancy, we feel that there are a number of scientific studies that support the possibility of infrasonic noise causing ill health effects, as referenced by the Health Protection Agency, UK (Health Effects of Exposure to Ultrasound and Infrasound, February, 2010). We feel that it would be grossly negligent to allow wind turbines to be placed proximal to residences until such concerns are scientifically addressed such that safe setbacks can be established. Furthermore, we feel that it is negligent to dismiss concerns about "annoyance" as not being a legitimate concern. Swedish researcher Eja Pedersen has numerous scientific publications related to noise and annoyance and the impact on nearby populations, with one study describing significant annoyance at as little as 32.5 dBA ("Perception and Annoyance Due to Wind Turbine Noise: A Dose-Response Relationship" Pedersen; Waye; J Acoust. Soc. Am. 116 (6), Dec 2004).

The town of Colebrook is notable for its rural character and its scenery. The placement of wind turbines of the proposed magnitude in the highly visible locations would have a negative impact on the aesthetics of this community and would undermine the intentions of those who have chosen Colebrook expressly because of its charm, including ourselves. Furthermore, it would diminish the value of moving to this community. As such, in combination with health concerns, the property values would certainly decrease. Statements to the contrary are unreasonable and absurd.

While we are certainly concerned about the environmental impact to wildlife in this area, we admit that we lack the background to refute the studies submitted by BNE. However, we would like to go on record as objecting to their data unless it can be substantiated by a neutral party.

### III. Relief sought by the petitioners

We ask the Siting Council to deny Petition Nos. 983 and 984 in their entirety. We further ask the Council to impose a moratorium on all wind generation projects until appropriate laws and regulations may be put in place by the State, the Council and local regulatory bodies. By appropriate we mean to say that credible scientific studies are employed in addressing health concerns and setback distances, and that plausible negative effects proposed by researchers who support "Wind Turbine Syndrome" and "Vibro Acoustic Disorder" be taken into serious consideration unless they can be unequivocally dismissed.

### IV. Statutory or other authority therefore

We are entitled to party status in this proceeding pursuant to Sections 4-177a, 16-50*l*, 16-50n, 22a-19 and 22a-20 of the Connecticut General Statutes and Sections 16-50j-13 through 17 of the Regulations of the Connecticut Siting Council.

## V. Nature of the evidence that the petitioners intend to present

We will present testimony regarding the negative impact the proposed facility will have on our health and the health of nearby residents, our sense of well-being (i.e. The importance of "Annoyance" and the enjoyment of our home), the loss of property value and the undermining of our selection of this community for our residence (to wit, a violation of our personal rights). We will present additional evidence in the form of scientific studies, surveys and expert opinion on the safety of similar wind generation projects.

### VI. Other comments for the Siting Council's consideration

We ask that the Council hold public hearings on BNE's petitions for declaratory rulings in Colebrook or one of the surrounding towns, so that local residents will have the opportunity to voice their opinion on the proposed facilities. Many residents and other concerned citizens do not have the time or means to participate in this proceeding as parties and travel to New Britain. They also deserve to be heard on this important issue.

Sincerely and Respectfully,

David R. Lawrence, MD

Jeannie Lemelin, LPN